

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1468**

**Asked on 18 October 2018**

**MR S STEWART** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (HON Y D'ATH) –

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Attorney-General advise how Legal Aid Queensland is providing justice services, in particular in regional Queensland?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Townsville for his question in relation to how justice services are provided by Legal Aid Queensland, particularly in regional areas.

Legal Aid Queensland is committed to providing frontline legal services to rural, regional and remote areas of Queensland. There are 13 regional offices providing services throughout regional Queensland, and a Statewide network of regional preferred supplier private law firms that contribute to supporting Queensland's justice system.

Legal Aid Queensland also works closely with 38 Community Legal Centres across the State. Many Community Legal Centres help Legal Aid Queensland deliver domestic and family violence duty lawyer services in regional courts.

Legal Aid Queensland also provides direct legal services such as grants of aid for court representation, legal information and advice, and duty lawyer services to people in rural, regional and remote Queensland. About 40 per cent of legal advice and representation services are delivered to clients in non-metropolitan areas.

Other frontline legal aid services available to regional Queenslanders include:

- criminal law duty lawyer services in Magistrates and Children's Courts in regional towns across Queensland;
- family law duty lawyer services in Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Toowoomba, Southport, Hervey Bay and Ipswich;
- domestic and family violence duty lawyer services in Richlands, Beenleigh, Southport, Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Maroochydore, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns, Mount Isa and Palm Island; and
- child protection duty lawyer services in Ipswich, Pine Rivers, Caboolture, Southport, Maroochydore, Cairns and Townsville.

In-house counsel also appears in regional and remote courts including circuits to Mount Isa, the Gulf of Carpentaria, Thursday Island, Cape York Peninsula, Bowen, Charters Towers, Hervey Bay, Gympie, Bundaberg, Kingaroy and Maryborough legal outreach clinics, where lawyers travel to surrounding regions or link in by videoconferencing to provide legal advice services to Cooktown, Tully, Bribie Island, Dirranbandi, Goondiwindi and Tara.

Legal Aid Queensland helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and the courts on circuit to the remote areas of Normanton, Burketown, Mornington Island, Doomadgee, Thursday Island and other Torres Strait Islands.

The organisation also provides a Statewide telephone legal information line and an Indigenous Hotline where people can call from anywhere in Queensland for the cost of a local call.

Legal Aid Queensland also works with 42 community access points across Queensland to provide information about their services, access to some of their publications, and to help people access free telephone legal advice.